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9-2020

Animal Science E-Newsletter, September 2020

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Citation

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences. (2020). Animal Science E-Newsletter, September 2020. *Animal Science e-Newsletter*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/ansc-eneews/70>

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Animal Science E-Newsletter

September 2020



Welcome Back: Students Return for Fall Classes

Fall classes resumed Aug. 24 on the U of A campus here in Fayetteville. Obviously, things are different this semester. Face coverings are required at all times indoors and required outdoors when social distancing of at least six feet can't be assured. During the first week back, all students, faculty and staff received health kits providing face coverings, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes. Further, students could choose the instruction format of their classes, either face-to-face or virtual, prior to the start of the semester. All classes are recorded via Zoom and Blackboard Collaborate and can be viewed anytime by students that miss a class period.

I want to commend Animal Science faculty and staff on tirelessly working to provide the best possible educational experience to our students during a difficult time. Animal Science is offering 75% of our courses face-to-face with the remaining 25% offered remotely. As of September 9, Animal Science had 304 students enrolled. We wish students, staff and faculty a safe and productive semester! }



Several Animal Science Faculty Receive Research Funding from the Arkansas Beef Council

Recently, several Animal Science faculty members received funding from the Arkansas Beef Council. The department greatly appreciates the Beef Council's continued support of our faculty's research efforts. The following proposals were funded:

- *Characterization of epigenomic and transcriptomic differences associated with high and low marbling in three different muscle types in beef cattle* – Brittnei Littlejohn
- *Determination of eating quality of boneless and bone-in short loins following extended aging* – Kelly Vierck
- *Utilization of sous vide cooking applications to improve palatability* – Kelly Vierck
- *Utilizing carcass ultrasound and genomic testing to predict quality traits in direct marketed beef from farm to consumer* – Charles Looney
- *Effects of retail case environment and LED lighting temperature on color and oxidation of ground beef patties* – Janeal Yancey



The mission of the Arkansas Beef Council is to coordinate and implement a program of promotion, research and market development to enhance the image of beef and improve the potential of Arkansas's cattle industry. }

Department of Animal Science Congratulates Travis Justice, Rick Rorie on Their Careers and Retirements

The Department of Animal Science would like to congratulate Travis Justice and Rick Rorie (pictured) for their successful careers and recent retirements.

Travis Justice served 46.5 years as Director of Commodity (Beef Cattle and Equine) and Regulatory Affairs and Chief Economist for the Arkansas Farm Bureau as well as Administrator for the Arkansas Beef Council. Justice was selected as Friend of the Department of Animal Science in 2015. He retired on Sept. 4.

Rick Rorie spent 35 years with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and the Department of Animal Science. Rorie taught reproductive biology to numerous undergraduate and graduate students over the years. His research focus included development and evaluation of genetic and/or physiological markers for fertility, heifer development/selection, and embryo collection and transfer. Dr. Rorie retired on Aug. 31.



The department would like to thank both of them for all their engagement and support of Arkansas Animal Science and wishes them all the best in retirement! }

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Set to Host Cattle Marketing Webinar

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will host a webinar on Tuesday, Sept. 29, to provide some useful information on the coming fall marketing season.

The hourlong webinar will begin at 6:30 p.m. CDT and features speakers from within the U of A System Division of Agriculture, including Department of Animal Science faculty member, Shane Gadberry.

Dr. Gadberry and the group of panelists will discuss current market conditions, factors that affect bid price, calf management, supplemental feeding for preconditioned marketing, and more.

The webinar, which will be presented on Zoom, is free to attend but registration is required. To register, please visit: <http://bit.ly/FALL20CATTLEMARKETS>. }



Alumni Spotlight: Kathy Hall Receives USDA Grant

Department of Animal Science alumna, Kathy Hall (M.S. in 1986 and Ph.D. in 1993), was recently awarded a USDA Farm to School grant.

Dr. Hall teaches career and technical courses along with agriculture at Central Junior High in Springdale, Ark. The department will collaborate with Dr. Hall in providing virtual and face-to-face (when allowed) hands-on experiences in addition to various field trips to U of A System Division of Agriculture research farms. }

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